

## ASMB e-Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

In this Winter-Spring issue of the American Society for Matrix Biology newsletter, we are pleased to present an array of content that reflects the ongoing activities and achievements within our community.

In this edition, we welcome three new ASMB council members and express our appreciation for the contributions of the three departing members. Through interviews, we aimed to get to know the new councilors a bit more. Additionally, we highlight the finalists of our annual matrix Image Contest, a tradition that consistently attracts stunning and thought-provoking submissions, highlighting the beauty of extracellular matrix research. Readers are invited to vote for the People's Choice winner, with finalists having the opportunity to feature on the cover of our newsletter. Furthermore, we include an interview with Dr. Karen Brown in our segment "At the Interface," focusing on the application of extracellular matrix technologies in cell culture. This is part of our ongoing effort to explore the varied roles of extracellular matrix biologists beyond academia. While these topics are among the highlights, they represent just a portion of the informative content available in this issue.

We thank our readers for their support of the ASMB and encourage feedback, suggestions, and ideas for future newsletters, as we continue to foster the growth and development of our extracellular matrix biology community.

Best regards,

Milos Marinkovic, Ph.D.

University of Texas Health – San Antonio

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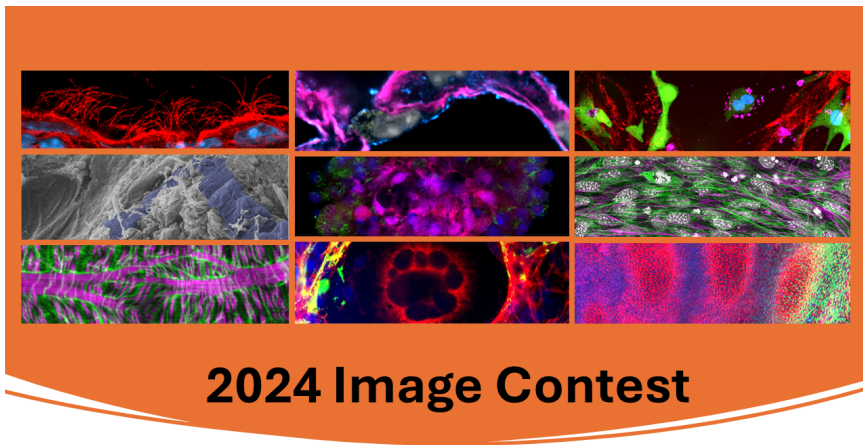


## At the Interface - A Series

In this issue, we are delighted to feature an interview with Dr. Karen Brown, Director of Sales, North America, at BioLamina. With a rich background in immunology, including a postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH, to impactful roles at The Journal of Immunology, Miltenyi Biotec, and Bio-Techne, Dr. Brown brings a wealth of experience and insight into her current role, leading sales for a company developing extracellular matrix technologies for cell culture.

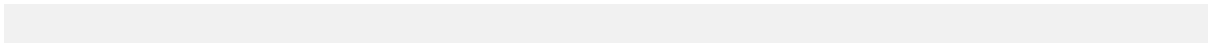
[Read the article here.](#)

To be considered for a future interview, [email us!](#)



## Which is your favorite image?

The images have arrived! Once again, ASMB and ISMB members have submitted beautiful pictures featuring amazing science. The ASMB council will be voting on the images that will be featured on the website. Now YOU get to vote for a Peoples Choice winner! Go to the [ASM website](#) to see a description of each image. Then vote for your favorite!



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## 2024 Basement Membrane Workshop



### Matrix Biologists!

It's almost here! The ASMB Basement Membrane Workshop is just around the corner. There is still time to register, and submit your abstract. You won't want to miss this amazing scientific event—a dynamic gathering of brilliant minds, all converging to explore the fascinating world of basement membranes. This workshop, hosted at the University of Manchester, will be an immersive experience into cutting-edge matrix biology.

**When:** April 11 - 13, 2024

**Where:** Manchester Cell-Matrix Centre, University of Manchester, UK

### Why should you be there?

*Stellar Speakers:* Brace yourselves for a lineup of speakers who are pioneers in their fields. We're thrilled to welcome keynote speakers Kiyotoshi Sekiguchi, Osaka University and Peter Yurchenco, Rutgers University. These experts will share their insights and findings, providing a unique perspective on basement membrane research. The full line-up of invited speakers can be found on the [ASMB website](#). Together we will delve into the latest research and discoveries surrounding basement membranes.

*Networking Extravaganza:* Connect with fellow enthusiasts, researchers, and professionals. Exchange ideas, build collaborations, and be part of a community passionate about advancing our understanding of basement membranes. This workshop isn't just about science; it's about building connections and fostering a community dedicated to pushing the boundaries of knowledge.

*Manchester Magic:* Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of Manchester – a city pulsating with history, culture, and innovation. The University of Manchester provides the perfect backdrop for this scientific rendezvous. There will also be a dinner outing on Friday night. This is optional, with an additional fee – but it promises to be a fun night out in Manchester!

So, whether you're a seasoned researcher, a curious student, or someone with a love for science, this workshop is for you. Save the dates, pack your scientific curiosity, and join us for an unforgettable exploration of basement membranes.

See you in Manchester!

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## Volunteers Needed

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The awesome ASMB Communication and Outreach Committee needs a few new members! Our workload is growing and we need energetic trainees and early career members to help out. (Phd student, postdoc and assistant prof level). Join our amazing crew and find out what we do!

[Email us to get more info or to volunteer.](#)

## Why join ASMB Communication & Outreach Committee...?



...because we're a fun bunch, both online and in person!



...and we're good at what we do! Don't believe us?

one of the best committees I have ever worked on!

Ryan Petrie, 2024

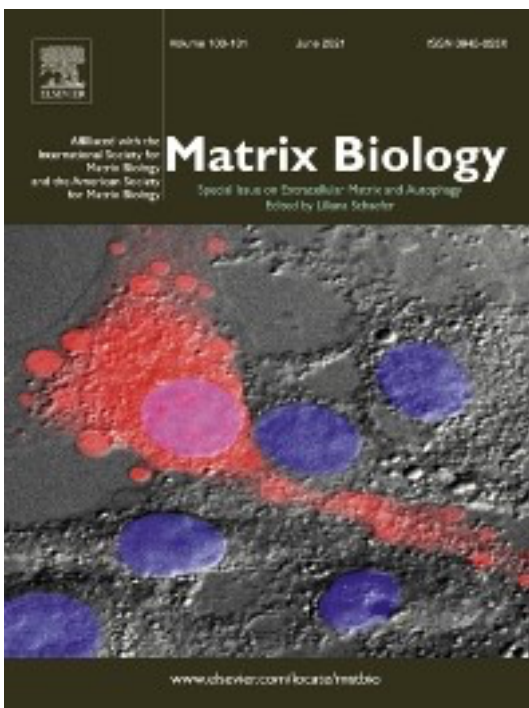
## Who are our new Council members?



You've read their bios, you know their work... but who are they outside of the lab? We posed questions (below) to our new council members and asked them to answer 6-7 of them. Check out their responses! We heard from Le Bellas, Dieter Reinhardt, and Yoshi Ishikawa.

[New Council Member Responses](#)

- Send an original drawing, self-portrait, image, or photo that you feel represents you.
- Do you have any hobbies or hidden talents or skills that might surprise us?
- What book, movie, or TV show has left a lasting impression on you recently?
- What's the most memorable place you've ever visited, and what made it special?
- What's your favorite type of cuisine or go-to comfort food?
- What's a personal accomplishment outside of your scientific career that you're proud of?
- Do you have a favorite board game? And why do you like it?
- Are you into any sports or outdoor activities?
- What type of music do you enjoy listening to, and do you have a favorite artist or band?
- Have you attended any memorable concerts or live performances?



### Matrix Biology Special Issue:

#### Fibroblasts and the Microenvironment

There is still time to submit your article for this special issue. ASMB is partnering with Elsevier to design a special issue of Matrix Biology. The focus of this special call is on the fibroblast and the microenvironment. Guest editors are Lisandra de Castro Brás, PhD, *East Carolina University*, Kristine DeLeon-Pennell, PhD,

*Medical University of South Carolina*, and Jeremy Simpson, PhD, *University of Guelph*. Submissions are now being accepted and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. For more information about the submission process, [visit the Elsevier website](#).

## Member Milestones

Do you or a colleague in your lab have a professional milestone to celebrate? Let us know! We want to share ASMB members' good news with the Matrix Community. [Email us!](#)

## Upcoming Events



**ecm**  
**2024**  
copenhagen

### Extracellular Matrix Pharmacology Congress (#ECM2024)

**June 17-19, 2024, in Copenhagen, Denmark!**

ECM2024 will address a wide range of topics within the EC field, including pharmacology, clinical, and basic science. The aim is to discover new drug targets and bring together ECM experts across different fibro-inflammatory diseases.

Register before the early bird deadline on April 15, 2024, at <https://ecm-congress.org/registration/>



### 12th International Workshop on the CCN Family of Genes: Cell - Matrix Communicati and Functions in Health and Disease - June - 23, 2024 Oslo, Norway

This workshop is an important meeting for scientists working on the CCN family of proteins and also on extracellular matrix proteins and cell - matrix communication in health and disease more broadly. The aim of this workshop is to gather a larger scientific community working on matrix biology to a workshop in Oslo to share novel scientific development and to foster

scientific discussions and new collaborations among scientists in the field. For more information [visit the meeting website](#).



## ASMB Contact Info:

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In this edition of the American Society for Matrix Biology's Winter-Spring newsletter, we are delighted to feature an interview with Dr. Karen Brown, Director of Sales, North America, at BioLamina. With a rich background in immunology, including a postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH, to impactful roles at The Journal of Immunology, Miltenyi Biotec, and Bio-Techne, Dr. Brown brings a wealth of experience and insight into her current role, leading sales for a company developing extracellular matrix technologies for cell culture.

**1. Could you tell us a bit about BioLamina and its role in commercializing technologies related to extracellular matrix biology?**

BioLamina made its humble beginnings in 2009 as a father-son start up, born out of Karolinska Institute based on findings by Professor Karl Tryggvason, a distinguished researcher and medical doctor with focus on basement membranes (BM), which is a specialized part of the extracellular matrix (ECM). The groups led by him have cloned almost all human BM proteins, clarified genetic causes of many BM-associated diseases, and have produced most laminins as recombinant, full-length human proteins. Laminins are a family of proteins essential in BM assembly and biology and are necessary for organ development and correct function. As such they are also vital for the optimal growth, differentiation, and maintenance of all cells cultured outside of the body.



BioLamina manufactures and commercializes human full-length recombinant laminin isoforms worldwide for use as cell culture substrates. Our laminins, Biolaminin® isoforms, are fully defined and xeno-free, and we most recently added Biolaminin 521 Cell Therapy Grade (CT521) to the portfolio, for those working on stem cell-based therapy products that are moving towards the clinic. As part of the BioLamina team I have the sincere privilege of working with a group of incredibly smart and talented people. We are passionate about our Biolaminin and about helping and educating others on the absolute necessity to grow their cells (iPSCs, ESCs, MSCs, HSCs, differentiated and primary cells) on full-length recombinant laminins to recreate a biologically relevant and thus ideal environment for the cells. Today, BioLamina is well known as a leading provider of primary cell culture tools for the Cell Therapy industry.

**2. Transitioning from academia to industry is a significant change. What inspired you to shift from your NIH postdoctoral fellowship to a career in the biotech sector?**

I've always had a passion for the sciences, particularly in the areas of immunology, autoimmune and rare diseases, and translational medicine. However, after spending 9 years at the bench (4 years during my graduate work and 5 years in my Postdoctoral fellowship), I decided that I would be more effective at "helping others" with their research by moving into a commercial role and being a true collaborator who can now help multiple different labs with their projects.

**3. Moving from lab research to a commercial role can be challenging. What obstacles did you face during this transition, and how did you overcome them?**

The move from research to a commercial role was indeed a transition. After multiple meetings with researchers, those that used to be my colleagues, so to speak, I quickly learned that it wasn't enough to listen and learn and get excited about their research. Now I also had to serve as a true consultant, to see the "big picture", to be strategic and suggest/offer relevant tools that would help the researcher get to their next level (i.e. publish a paper, save time/improve their workflow, develop a cell therapy product) and to encourage them to think about/realize the potential outcomes if they chose to continue on the same path.

**4. Balancing scientific research with commercial demands is crucial in your role. How do you manage this, and what advice would you offer to scientists considering a move to the biotech industry?**

Having a background/higher degree in the sciences has been critical for my move to the biotech industry, as it has enabled me to have meaningful, productive, and scientific/technical conversations with researchers in various scientific disciplines and with various roles. I would compare it to a well-respected and experienced football coach, for example, who used to play football and who has a full understanding of the game, the challenges, and what is needed to be successful.

**5. Reflecting on your career, could you share a moment that was particularly rewarding or significant in your transition from research to the commercial side of the industry?**

When I first decided to transition from research to industry, I, like many others I'm sure, was apprehensive about how I would be perceived by my (former) peers and wondered whether I would be respected and/or taken seriously in my new role. The most memorable moment for me was coming to the realization that people are interested and willing to talk to me, and they appreciate having an "expert" to consult with and problem solve with and learn about potential solutions to their research challenges. In thinking about these roles, however, and after being on the research side for 13 total years and the commercial side for 17 total years, I don't necessarily see them as "one or the other" (research or industry). Rather, I believe it's necessary to maintain a strong relationship/partnership between research and commercial industries. I believe that one entity cannot exist to its fullest potential without the other. Like Biolamina, most if not all biotech companies were born out of a research lab, and thus it's important to maintain these relationships and partnerships (i.e. in the Cell Therapy space) so that these "ideas" that were founded in the lab can grow and be nurtured into a successful "therapy" (with proper support, advice, education, and high quality products/reagents from the commercial side) that will ultimately help patients with life-threatening diseases.



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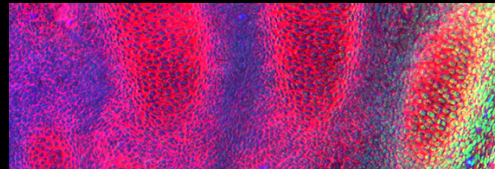
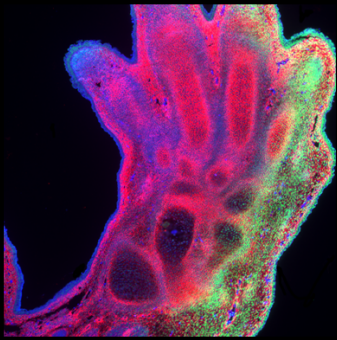
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## 2024 Image Contest Winners

Congratulations to our 2024 winners, listed below in alphabetical order:

### In the Footsteps of Matrix Proteins: Illuminating the Intricacies of Fibronectin in Mouse Paw



**Neha Dinesh, McGill University**

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Mon Oct 28, 2024

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Thu May 1, 2025

[Biologic Scaffolds for Regenerative Medicine](#)

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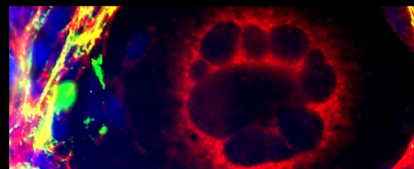
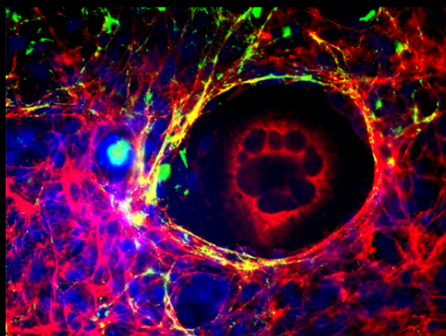
Sun Nov 16, 2025

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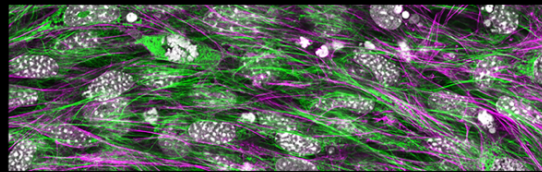
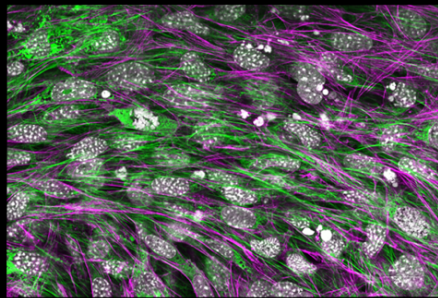
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### Who stepped on my slide? Grrr...



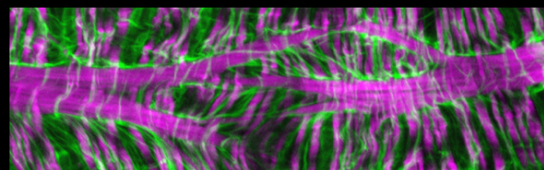
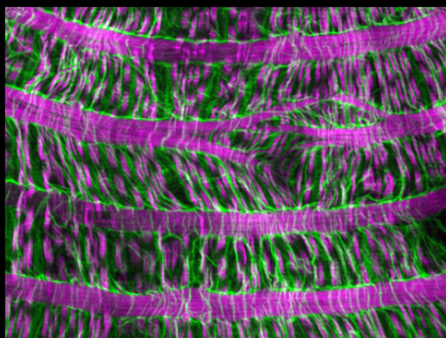
**Dirk Hubmacher, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**

### Cells at work: laying down a novel ECM protein, SNED1



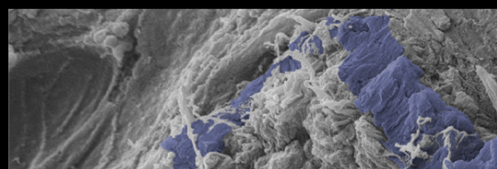
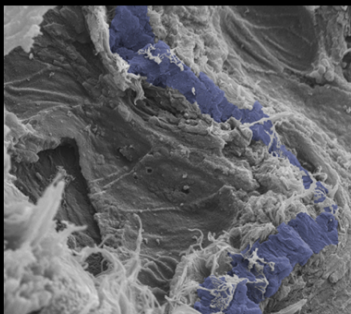
**Dharma Tejeshwar Reddy Pally,  
University of Illinois at Chicago**

### Meshing Matrix and Muscles



**Aubrie Stricker,  
Vanderbilt University**

### The Rocky Journey of Elastin in the Aorta



**Rodrigo Barbosa de Souza  
Universidade de San Paulo**

**Peoples'  
Choice**

Look for more information about these scientists and their winning images in the  
2024 Summer ASMB Newsletter.

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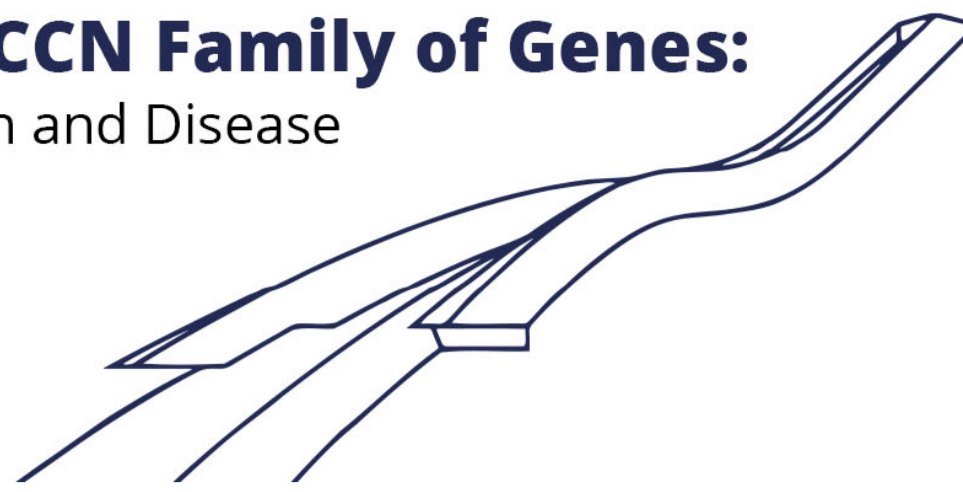
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# 12th International Workshop on the CCN Family of Genes:

Cell – Matrix Communication and Functions in Health and Disease

20 June – 23 June | Holmenkollen, Oslo, Norway



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*We are happy to welcome you to the*

## 12th International Workshop on the CCN Family of Genes: Cell - Matrix Communication and Functions in Health and Disease

Welcome to the 12th biannual International Workshop on the CCN Family of Genes at Scandic Holmenkollen Park Hotel, Oslo. The workshop is an important meeting for scientists working on the CCN family of proteins. However, the scope of the Oslo meeting is to present and discuss scientific data on extracellular matrix proteins and cell - matrix communication in health and disease more broadly. Thus, our aim is to gather a larger scientific community working on matrix biology to a workshop in Oslo to share novel scientific development and to foster scientific discussions and new collaborations among scientist in the field.

The meeting will have both keynote lectures and abstract presentations. We specifically encourage PhD students and postdocs to participate. Two prizes (EUR 1.000,- each) will be awarded for the two best abstract presentations among PhD-students or postdocs.

Confirmed speakers:

**Ray R. Birge**, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, NJ, USA

**Bhudev C. Das**, Amity University Noida, India

**E. Donald Gullberg**, University of Bergen, Norway

**Bjørn Högberg**, Karolinska Institute, Sweden

**Morten Karsdal**, Nordic Bioscience and University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

**Gabrielle Marinello**, Qeios, London, UK

**Sylvie Ricard-Blum**, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 Lyon, France

**Katia Scotlandi**, University of Bologna, Italy

**Anna Zampetaki**, Kings' College, London, UK

Additional speakers and full program to be announced.

Hope to see you in Oslo!

On behalf of the organizing committee,

Annick Perbal, Bernard Perbal, PhD, Vivi T. Monsen, PhD, and Håvard Attramadal, MD, PhD

Scientific Advisory Board

Lester F.Lau, PhD

Brahim Chaqour, PhD

Bernard Perbal, PhD

Vivi T. Monsen, PhD

Håvard Attramadal, MD, PhD



Foto: VisitOSLO / Tord Baklund

### Contact us

Email: [ccnworkshop@gyro.no](mailto:ccnworkshop@gyro.no)

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## Basement Membrane Speakers

### Keynote Speakers:

Kiyotoshi Sekiguchi, *Osaka University*

Peter Yurchenco, *Rutgers University*

### Invited Speakers:

#### Basement Membrane Mechanics

Raphael Reuten, *University of Freiburg, Germany*

Ovijit Chaundhuri, *Stanford University*

#### Modelling and engineering the Basement Membrane

Yanlan Mao, *University College London, UK*

#### Cell-BM interactions

Ambra Pozzi, *Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville*

Jessica Morgner, *Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

#### Basement Membrane and Disease

Federica Genovese, *Nordic Bioscience, Copenhagen, Denmark*

#### Basement Membranes Remodeling, Repair and Regeneration

Suneel Apte, *The Lerner Institute, Cleveland*

Danny Chan, *School of Biomedical Science, China*

#### Basement Membrane Assembly

Hiro Fujiwara, *RIKEN Laboratory, Kobe*

Yao Yao, *University of South Florida*

#### Basement Membrane in Development

Sandrine Pizette, *University of Nice, France*

Brian Stramer, *Kings College London, UK*

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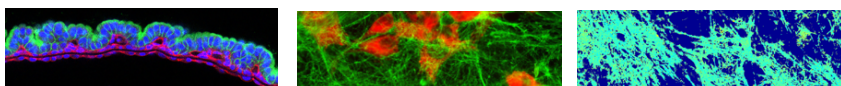
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### ASMB Image Contest 2024



### Image contest is NOW Closed!

[See the 2024 Winning Images!](#)

Do you have a superb image you'd like to display and showcase your research? Proud of your histology, immuno hybridization, electron microscopy, molecular modeling or 3-D structure data? Is a latent artistic talent hiding wit some cool images related to your latest publication that you did not include there? Would you like to call attentio from your lab?

Submit a matrix-centric image for display on the ASMB website banner, newsletter and twitter feed!!!!

ASMB welcomes matrix-centric images. Images should not infringe copyright and should not have been previou submit JPG or PNG images of the highest resolution possible, 300 dpi and less than 90 MB in size. Original jpg c Please upload two versions of the same image. One version must be 980 x 300 px, the other version may be any entry is permitted per ASMB or ISMB member.

**Deadline to submit was March 21st, 2024.**

#### Top winners will receive:

- Image featured on the ASMB website and social media
- Invitation to present the science behind the image in an e-Symposium
- Discount registration for a future ASMB workshop or meeting

### Dates, Terms & Conditions

Please review all dates, terms and conditions prior to submission.

#### Dates

February 20 - <b>March 21, 2024</b>	Contest Open Images accepted until 12:00pm US Eastern on <b>March 21</b>
Late April <b>2024</b>	Winners announced, images posted on website

#### Submission Guidelines

Entries must be:

- High resolution photography or illustration file at 300 dpi and less than 90 MB in size. Original JPG or PNG files are preferred. Two

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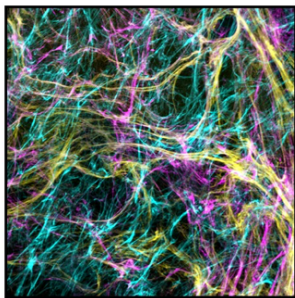
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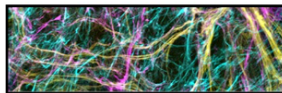
versions of the same image may be uploaded. One must be 980 x 300 px.

**One submission per ASMB/ISMB Member**

**Upload two versions of the same image**



**One image may be any size**



**One image must be 980 x 300px (required)**

Entries must comply with the following conditions:

- Submitter must be a current ASMB or ISMB member.
- Entries must be original creations by the submitter(s). If previously published, the submitter(s) must provide a URL or appropriate reference to the original publication.
- The submitter(s) must hold the copyright of the submitted image. ASMB is not responsible for legal claims related to the improper submission of works belonging to other individuals or organizations.
- Entries must relate to life science research and be matrix-centric.
- Images must not be of a patient or human research subject, but may be of human cells.
- Images, illustrations, or videos advertising or marketing specific companies or commercial products are ineligible.
- All entrants grant ASMB and partnering organizations the ability to modify entries for future use and display, and also nonexclusive web and print publication rights, while retaining copyright.
- Selection of contest winners is at the sole discretion of ASMB. All decisions by ASMB are final.
- Submission of an image indicates that an entrant agrees to all contest terms and conditions listed above.
- If you have any questions about the submissions, please [contact the ASMB business office](#).

[See the 2023 Winners](#)

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## Past Program (ECM2024)

All times are Central European Summer Time (CEST)

K: Keynote; OP: Oral Presentation; RP: Rapid Oral Presentation

[Download the program](#)

### Monday 17 June

8:00-9:00

**Welcome and Registration: Poster Hanging and Danish Pastry** (Congress Hall)

8:15-8:45

**Meet the Experts: Everything You Want to Know About ECM** (Harlekin)

9:00-10:15

**Opening Session** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Morten Karsdal

**9:00-9:30: Morten Karsdal:** Welcome and introduction.

**9:30-10:15: K1 Raghu Kalluri:** The function of fibroblasts and collagen in organ fibrosis and cancer.

10:15-10:45

**Coffee Break and Exhibition**

10:45-12:20

**Plenary Session: The Essential Components of the ECM** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Dettlef Schuppan

**10:45-11:10: Scott Friedman:** Insights into the cell biology of fibrosis and prospects for new targets.

**11:10-11:35: Sylvie Ricard-Blum:** The ECM crosslinking enzyme lysyl oxidase: a structurally and functionally challenging therapeutic target.

**11:35-11:50: OP1 Mayra Campos:** Common molecular (omics) fibrotic signature across organs affected by fibrosis in chronic diseases.

**11:50-12:05: OP2 Jade Celis:** Identifying genetic markers of fibrogenesis in patients with Crohn's disease.

**12:05-12:20: OP3 Sarah Palko:** Determining the effects of VEGF/Ang2 inhibition on collagen dynamics and deposition in the 2-hit model of subretinal fibrosis.

12:20-14:00

**Lunch and Exhibition**

12:50-14:00

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: Targeting Fibrosis: Changing the ECM I** (Harlekin)

**Chair:** Saurabh Gupta

**12:50-13:10: Michael Cooreman:** PPARs: Regulators of tissue remodeling.

**13:10-13:25: Giuseppe Mazza, Engitix Therapeutics:** Beyond the cells: decoding the extracellular matrix to develop novel therapies for fibrosis and cancer.

**13:25-13:40: Paul Yaworsky, Mediar Therapeutics:** Targeting the myofibroblast for novel anti-fibrotic therapies.

**13:40-13:55: Lara Perryman, SynTara:** Finally an anti-fibrotic! Clinical efficacy of lysyl oxidase inhibitors.

13:55-14:00: Q&A

12:50-13:55

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: ECM Remodeling in Obesity and Metabolic Disorders: Causing Heart Failure** (Columbine)

**Chair:** Kim Henriksen

**12:50-13:20: Mads Røpke, Novo Nordisk:** Modulation of the extracellular matrix in cardiometabolic disease.

**13:20-13:35: Zvonko Milicevic, Eli Lilly:** Effects of rizatriptane and retatrutide in the liver: results of the phase 2 trials.

**13:35-13:50: Joel Mathews, Ionis Pharmaceuticals:** The formation of TTR fibrils and fibrosis.

13:50-13:55: Q&A

14:00-15:35

**Plenary Session: The Importance of ECM in Cancer** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Scott Friedman

**14:00-14:25: Thomas Cox:** Deconstructing cancer ecosystems: the matrix perspective.

**14:25-14:40: Saurabh Gupta:** Pathological, prognostic and predictive role of circulating extracellular matrix markers in solid tumors.

**14:40-15:05: Janine Erter:** ECM regulation of metastatic growth.

**15:05-15:20: OP4 Marina Pajic:** Reprogramming of pro-fibrotic immunosuppressive pancreatic cancer environment by anti-fungal itraconazole enhances the overall anti-tumor response.

**15:20-15:35: OP5 Nicholas Willumsen:** Type III collagen pro-peptides in serum (PRO-C3) as a prognostic biomarker of survival in clinical cancer trials with a FDA letter-of-support.

15:50-16:45

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: Quantifying Fibrosis** (Harlekin)

**Chair:** Graham Clarke

**15:50-16:05: Louis Petitjean, PharmaNest:** Digital pathology and artificial intelligence quantification of fibrosis and inflammation.

**16:05-16:20: Lars Johansson, Antaros Medical:** Non-invasive imaging of fibrogenesis and fibrosis.

**16:20-16:35: Aidan MacNamara, Bayer:** FIGARO-BM, a biomarker study of FIGARO-DKD, reveals new insights into the mode-of-action of finerenone.

16:35-16:45: Q&A

15:50-16:55

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: Unraveling ECM Dynamics: Techniques** (Columbine)

**Chairs:** Mark Skarsfeldt and Christian Thudium

**15:50-16:05: Evelyn Aranda, Xylyx Bio:** IN MATRICO: a 3D assay platform based on human tissue-specific dECM for the study of cancer and fibrosis.

**16:05-16:20: Luca Bersanini, Optics11 Life:** Unravel the role of ECM in fibrosis.

**16:20-16:35: Hamid Khoja, FibroBiologics:** Potential use of fibroblast spheroids for the treatment of chronic wounds and psoriasis.

**16:35-16:50: Molly Coseno, Sengenic:** Autoantibody profiling: unique insights into ECM relevant diseases.

16:50-16:55: Q&A

17:00-18:00

**Poster Session 1** (Congress Hall) (P027-P048, P077-P108)

**Categories:** Cancer and Tumour Microenvironment, Cardiometabolic Diseases, Liver and Lung Diseases, Matrix Biology.

17:15-18:00

**Panel Discussion: Drug Development in Fibrosis: Challenges and Opportunities** (Harlekin)

**Chair:** Morten Karsdal

**Panel:** Michael Cooreman, Saurabh Gupta and Paul Yaworsky

18:00-19:00

**Welcome Networking Reception**

### Tuesday 18 June

8:00-8:50

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: Elastin and Collagens in Health, Aging and Disease** (Harlekin)

**Chair:** Sylvie Ricard-Blum

**8:00-8:30: Hervé Pigeon, L'Oréal:** Aging of human skin, focus on the glycation reaction, its modeling and its effects on reconstructed skin.

**8:30-8:45: Andrea Heinz, University of Copenhagen:** Aging of elastic fibers in the skin and cardiovascular system.

8:45-8:50: Q&A

8:00-9:00

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: Exploring Anti-Inflammatory and Anti-Fibrotic Drugs: Model Systems** (Columbine)

**Chair:** Federica Genovese

**8:00-8:15: Benjamin Simona, Ectica Technologies:** 3DPROFIB: innovative in vitro system for ECM remodeling and evaluation of antifibrotic compounds.

**8:15-8:30: Henrik Björk Hansen, Gubra:** Distinct and shared therapeutic effects of semaglutide in preclinical models of fibrotic diseases.

**8:30-9:00: Vince Fiore, Boehringer Ingelheim:** Modeling fibroblast heterogeneity in vitro for drug discovery.

9:00-9:05: Q&A

9:00-10:25

**Plenary Session: Dermatology and the ECM** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Signe Holm Nielsen

**9:00-9:25: Alexander Nyström:** What a genetic disease of the skin can tell us about inflammation-driven fibrosis.

**9:25-9:40: Simon Francis Thomsen:** Hidradenitis suppurativa and ECM.

**9:40-9:55: OP6 Dana Woerz:** Extracellular matrix remodeling in atopic dermatitis.

**9:55-10:10: OP7 Hannah Paish:** Development of an ex-vivo full-thickness skin model for drug testing and disease modelling.

**10:10-10:25: OP8 Alexander Eckersley:** Novel proteomic approaches for identifying organ-conserved extracellular matrix damage in ageing.

10:25-11:00

**Coffee Break and Exhibition**

11:00-12:00

**Rapid Oral Session 1** (Harlekin)

**Chair:** Michael Cooreman

**11:00-11:10: RP1 Lena Willmer:** The efficacy of pharmacological interventions on ECM genes and proteins in human lung tissue and a microphysiological system for enhanced cultivation.

**11:10-11:20: RP2 Adam Bøgh Marstrand-Jørgensen:** Mapping progression of DKD in ReninAAV UNx db/db mice utilizing time-series RNA sequencing.

**11:20-11:30: RP3 Hannah Tompkins:** High-dimensional imaging analysis reveals distinct immuno-matrix signatures across human lung diseases.

**11:30-11:40: RP4 Fabio Bignami:** The clinically relevant PRO-C3 biomarker: a new string to the bow of bleomycin model of pulmonary fibrosis.

**11:40-11:50: RP5 Paola Occhetta:** Pathological hallmarks of human cardiac fibrosis in a mechanically active organ-on-chip to predict the efficacy of drugs and advanced therapies.

**11:50-12:00: RP6 Nicole Stupka:** ADAMTS-5 inhibition by GLPG1972 reduces muscle inflammation and fibrosis and improves contractile function in muscular dystrophy.

11:00-12:00

**Rapid Oral Session 2** (Columbine)

**Chair:** Andrea Heinz

**11:00-11:10: RP7 Matej Andelic:** A novel biomarker of type VII collagen degradation is increased in patients with atopic dermatitis and lowered with immunosuppressant treatment.

**11:10-11:20: RP8 Marcos Burger Ramos:** Engineering ECM-degrading bacteria to boost anti-cancer immunity in immune-excluded solid cancers.

**11:20-11:30: RP9 Andre Broermann:** Non-invasive assessment of hepatic fibrosis in preclinical rodent models.

**11:30-11:40: RP10 Si Yuen Lee:** Development of glioblastoma microenvironment using 3D printed polysaccharide bioinks for an in-vitro tumour model.

**11:40-11:50: RP11 Ellen Bamberg:** Obesity-driven changes in breast extracellular matrix exhibit a pro-angiogenic phenotype.

**11:50-12:00: RP12 Giusy Di Conza:** Autotaxin targeting in metastatic PDAC: preclinical and preliminary clinical data.

11:00-12:00

**Rapid Oral Session 3** (Pjerrot)

**Chair:** Thomas Cox

**11:00-11:10: RP13 Thomai Tsapanou-Katranara:** Immune-cell specific biomarker of early intestinal inflammation: HNE degraded fragment of type III collagen is elevated in patients with IBD.

**11:10-11:20: RP14 Ling Wu:** The improvement of bortezomib on cirrhosis and its potential mechanism.

**11:20-11:30: RP15 Jie Li:** The extracellular matrix turnover profile in eosinophilic esophagitis and eosinophilic gastroenteritis – an exploratory study.

**11:30-11:40: RP16 Aurélie Moniot:** Intersecting the TSP-1/CD47 axis: a promising strategy for treating ovarian cancer.

**11:40-11:50: RP17 Michael Hühn:** Arrested development: spatial exploration of divergent paths of alveolar regeneration in the bleomycin mouse model versus human lung fibrosis.

**11:50-12:00: RP18 Christophe Roubeix:** Neovascular age-related macular degeneration-associated fibrosis characterization and in vitro modelization.

12:00-13:45

**Lunch and Exhibition**

12:30-13:30

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: Organ Fibrosis: Key Differences and Common Denominators** (Harlekin)

**Chair:** Kim Henriksen

**12:30-12:45: Federica Genovese, Nordic Bioscience:** Kidney/Heart

**12:45-13:00: Diana Leeming, Nordic Bioscience:** Liver/Lung

**13:00-13:15: Joachim Høg Mortensen, Nordic Bioscience:** Gut

**13:15-13:30 Q&A and Panel Discussion**

12:30-13:35

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: Targeting Fibrosis: Changing the ECM II** (Columbine)

**Chair:** Judith Ertle

**12:30-12:45: Kjetil Ask, Novartis:** Multiomics towards precision medicine for fibrosis.

**12:45-13:00: Håkan Wennbo, Takeda**

**13:00-13:15: Mahru An, Pliant Therapeutics:** Bexotegast attenuates expression of core matrix components in human fibrotic PCLS.

**13:15-13:30: Jannie Sand, Nordic Bioscience:** Exploring the relationship between type VI collagen degradation and severe acute exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: findings from the ECLIPSE study.

13:30-13:35: Q&A

13:45-15:30

**Plenary Session: Tissue Destruction in Inflammatory Diseases** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Ali Mobasheri

**13:45-14:10: Florian Rieder:** Mechanisms of intestinal repair and fibrosis.

**14:10-14:25: OP9 Kirsty Houstlay:** RXC008, a highly potent GI-targeted pan-ROCK inhibitor, is a first-in-class approach to treat fibrostenotic Crohn's disease.

**14:25-14:40: OP10 Marta Alexóttir:** CPa9-HNE: a neutrophil-derived fragment of calprotectin measured in serum can monitor endoscopic and clinical disease activity in ulcerative colitis.

**14:40-15:30: Panel Discussion: Tissue Destruction in Systemic Sclerosis with Oliver Distler and Dinesh Khanna:** How disease pathogenesis influences proof of concept clinical trial design.

15:45-16:45

**Poster Session 2** (Congress Hall) (P001-P026, P049-P076, P109-P127)

**Categories:** Biomarkers, ECM Pharmacology, Models of Fibrosis and Inflammation.

17:00-17:45

**Keynote** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Morten Karsdal

**17:00-17:45: K2 Gisli Jenkins:** The molecular pathology of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

19:00-24:00

**Congress Dinner**

### Wednesday 19 June

08:00-08:50

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: The Fibro-Inflammatory Axis: Fibroblasts and Tissue Destruction** (Harlekin)

**Chair:** Ali Mobasheri

**8:00-8:15: Dana Orange, Rockefeller University:** The role of fibroblasts in rheumatoid arthritis flare and pain.

**8:15-8:30: Adam Croft, University of Birmingham:** Spatial programming of fibroblasts in the inflamed joint.

**8:30-8:45: Anne-Christine Bay-Jensen, Nordic Bioscience:** Quantifying the fibrotic component in rheumatic diseases.

8:45-8:50: Q&A

8:00-9:10

**Industry-Sponsored Symposium: Where Science Meets Business: The Transformative Role of Proteomics in Advancing Precision Medicine** (Columbine)

**Chair:** Morten Karsdal

**8:00-8:10: Ruedi Stoffel, Roche:** Increasing the odds in biomarker development.

**8:10-8:25: Veronica Miller, University of California, Berkeley:** Stable consortia for driving innovation in the public-private interaction.

**8:25-8:40: Darcy Black, Therapeutix:** Drug discovery and development in IPF: how can biomarkers support making key decisions?

**8:40-8:55: Graham Clarke, AstraZeneca:** Extracellular matrix biomarker development in respiratory & immunology: an opportunity for precision medicine.

**8:55-9:10: Q&A and Panel Discussion**

8:15-8:45

**Meet the Experts: The Best ECM Papers Published** (Pjerrot)

9:15-10:50

**Plenary Session: Treating the ECM in Lung Diseases** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Gisli Jenkins

**9:15-9:40: Martin Decaris:** Application of molecular imaging, transcriptomics and biomarkers in the development of bexotegast.

**9:40-10:05: Rachel Chambers:** Cell signalling and reconfiguration of metabolic networks during fibrogenesis.

**10:05-10:20: OP11 Katy Roach:** Proteomic evaluation of a human lung model of fibrosis for novel therapeutic target selection.

**10:20-10:35: OP12 Iain Stewart:** Genetic burden of extracellular matrix components in pulmonary fibrosis.

**10:35-10:50: OP13 Paul Yaworsky:** Anti-WISP1 (MTX-463) as a novel potential therapy for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

11:00-12:45

**Plenary Session: ECM Remodeling in Liver and Heart Diseases** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Diana Leeming

**11:00-11:25: Aleksander Krag:** ECM and the liver: ready for clinical translation?

**11:25-11:50: Judith Ertle:** Assessment of fibrosis in the liver – MASH and beyond.

**11:50-12:15: Faiez Zannad:** Clinical characterization of ECM related mechanisms in cardiovascular disease and therapy.

**12:15-12:30: OP14 Erik Tillman:** EFX improved biomarkers of fibrogenesis-to-fibrosis balance consistent with a shift to beneficial ECM remodeling in patients with F2-F3 MASH.

**12:30-12:45: OP15 Clara Laursen:** Increased collagen type VI formation is associated with the risk of experiencing major adverse cardiovascular events in individuals with type 2 diabetes.

12:45-13:15

**Lunch and Exhibition**

13:15-14:30

**Closing Session: Keynote, Congress Summary and Abstract Awards** (Congress Hall)

**Chair:** Morten Karsdal

**13:15-14:00: K3 Dettlef Schuppan:** Translational approaches (ECM-related) to reverse liver fibrosis and liver cancer.

**14:00-14:30: Congress Summary and Abstract Awards**



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## Yoshihiro Ishikawa

Do you have any hobbies or hidden talents or skills that might surprise us?

My unique talent seems to be making friends with bar people with ease... An interesting note: I first met Doug Gould at a bar in Cleveland back in 2014 (during the ASMB meeting!!). We each took a seat randomly and ended up sitting side by side. Then fascinating chemistry starts because now we work together!



What's the most memorable place you've ever visited, and what made it special?

I have many candidates but this story fits here - the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, back in 2009. There, I encountered Pierre-Auguste Renoir's 'Bal du moulin de la Galette'. This painting is used to explain the role of molecular chaperones in biology. My visit was serendipitous, as I hadn't known the painting was housed at the Musée d'Orsay...

Are you into any sports or outdoor activities?

During my undergraduate years, I was actively involved in playing lacrosse, and I also enjoyed many sports or outdoor activities, mainly surfing and soccer until 2015(!). I suffered from my collagen issue, resulting in a torn Achilles tendon during a soccer game. Despite being away from these sports for a while, I hope to return to being active again!

What's your favorite type of cuisine or go-to comfort food?

Honestly, as long as I can pair it with a beer, any type of cuisine instantly becomes my favorite!

What's a personal accomplishment outside of your scientific career that you're proud of?

In 2011-2012 (366 days), Every day, I wore a different T-shirt and shared the look with a caption on social media - Yoshi T-shirts Project. I still have a vast collection of T-shirts, and it keeps growing...

Have you attended any memorable concerts or live performances?

One of the most memorable live experiences I've had was in Oregon on August 21, 2017, when I had the opportunity to witness a total solar eclipse. It was a breathtaking moment - nature truly showcased its unparalleled artistry.

## Dieter Reinhardt

### Do you have any hobbies or hidden talents or skills that might surprise us?

I can repair many things. This comes in handy in the lab, where instruments need to be maintained and repaired, and at home where repairs are constantly on the agenda.

### What book, movie, or TV show has left a lasting impression on you recently?

Daniel J. Levitin, *The Organized Mind*. I highly recommend reading this book, as it scientifically explains why multitasking is much less efficient than monotasking.

### What's your favorite type of cuisine or go-to comfort food?

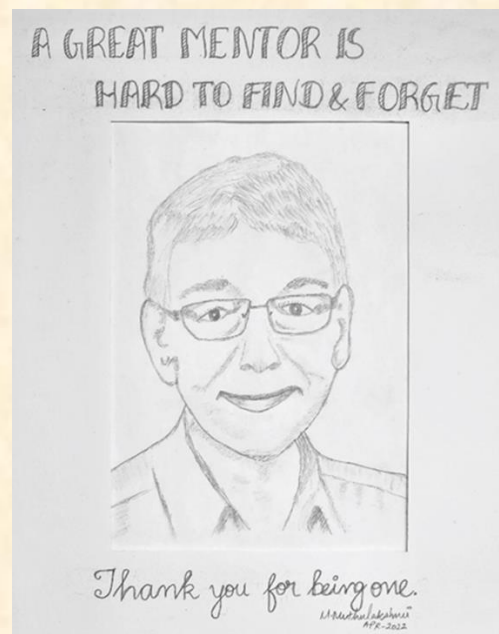
I like it plain. Oatmeal cooked with water, no milk or sugar, some fruits, and orange juice. The amount of energy you get out of that is unbelievable, nothing compares.

### Are you into any sports or outdoor activities?

I walk a lot—sorry, it's not that exciting—but it helps tremendously to keep in shape and free up these thoughts.

### Have you attended any memorable concerts or live performances?

Kraftwerk – yes, they still give concerts, and they are as good as they were in the 80s.



### Portrait

Original drawing, by former PhD student, Dr. Muthu L. Muthu

## **Evangelia Bellas (Leah)**

**Do you have any hobbies or hidden talents or skills that might surprise us?** I think many of us in academia share this, procrastinating. It's funny how suddenly a thing you may hate doing looks really great when you have a deadline.

**What book, movie, or TV show has left a lasting impression on you recently?** The book *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*. It was so different than any book I've read and I loved how it had nerdiness, love, friendship, career challenges, life/dating drama, immigrant backstories all set in a very familiar place, Cambridge MA.

**What's a personal accomplishment outside of your scientific career that you're proud of?** Serving as a translator between my Greek grandparents and their healthcare teams. They helped raise me while my parents worked long hours and it was great to be able to help them when they needed it, especially when it's as important as their health.

**Do you have a favorite board game? And why do you like it?** It's not quite a board game, but I love Taboo Speak Out. Watching people drool and laugh uncontrollably with that mouth contraption is absolutely priceless. 100% recommend everyone plays this at some point.

**Are you into any sports or outdoor activities?** Yes! I played rugby, softball and I love spinning, boxing and yoga. Right now, I'm training for the Broad Street Run in Philly and having second thoughts 😊. Otherwise, I love a nature stroll/hike with my dogs and friends (both 2 and 4 legged).

**Have you attended any memorable concerts or live performances?** All concerts/performances feel memorable, but one that comes to mind first, is when I saw the Philadelphia Orchestra do a Brahms x Radiohead Mashup. Very seamless and all around cool.